

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

	}	
	}	
Plaintiff(s)	}	
	}	
vs.	}	CIVIL ACTION NO. H-
	}	
	}	
	}	
Defendant(s)	}	

JOINT PRETRIAL ORDER

1. **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL**

List each party, its counsel, and counsel's address and telephone number in separate paragraphs.

2. **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Give a brief statement of the case, one that the judge could read to the jury panel for an introduction to the facts and parties; include names, dates and places.

3. **JURISDICTION**

Briefly specify the jurisdiction of the subject matter and the parties. If there is an unresolved jurisdictional question, state it.

4. **MOTIONS**

List pending motion.

5. **CONTENTIONS OF THE PARTIES**

State concisely in separate paragraphs each party's claims.

6. **ADMISSIONS OF FACT**

List all facts that require no proof.

7. **CONTESTED ISSUES OF FACT**

List all material facts in controversy.

8. **AGREED PROPOSITIONS OF LAW**

List the legal propositions that are not in dispute.

9. **CONTESTED PROPOSITIONS OF LAW**

State briefly the unresolved questions of law, with authorities to support each.

10. **EXHIBITS**

- A. On a form similar to the one provided by the clerk, each party will attach two lists of all exhibits expected to be offered and will make the exhibits available for examination by opposing counsel. All documentary exhibits must be exchanged before trial, except for the rebuttal exhibits or those whose use cannot be anticipated.
- B. A party requiring authentication of an exhibit must notify the offering counsel in writing within five (5) days after the exhibit is listed and made available; failure to object in advance of the trial in writing concedes authenticity.
- C. Within reason, other objections to admissibility of exhibits must be made at least three business days before trial; the court will be notified in writing of disputes, with copies of the disputed exhibit and authority.
- D. Parties must mark their exhibits to include the date and case number on each.
- E. At the trial, the first step will be the offer and receipt in evidence of exhibits.

11. **WITNESSES**

- A. List the names and addresses of witnesses who may be called with a brief statement of the nature of their testimony. Include the qualifications of expert witnesses; these will be used to qualify the expert at trial.
- B. Include:

"If other witnesses to be called at the trial become known, their names, addresses, and subject of their testimony will be reported to opposing counsel in writing as soon as they are known; this does not apply to rebuttal or impeachment witnesses."

12. **SETTLEMENT**

State that all settlement efforts have been exhausted, that the case cannot be settled, and that it will have to be tried.

13. **TRIAL**

- A. Probable length of trial; and
- B. Logistical problems, including availability of witnesses, out-of-state people, bulky exhibits, and demonstrations.

14. **ATTACHMENTS**

Include these required attachments:

A. For a jury trial:

- (1) Proposed questions for the voir dire examination.
- (2) Proposed charge, including instructions, definitions, and special interrogatories, with authority.

B. For a non-jury trial:

- (1) Proposed findings of fact (without repeating uncontested facts); and
- (2) Conclusions of law, with authority.

Date: _____

MELINDA HARMON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Approved:

Date: _____

Attorney-in-Charge, Plaintiff

Date: _____

Attorney-in-Charge, Defendant